

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-25 AID-20 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /138 W

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R 131320Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6449

INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, AF, IR

SUBJECT: VISIT TO IRAN OF NAIM AND ABDULLAH

REF: TEHRAN 3736

1. SARDAR MOHAMMAD NAIM, AFGHAN PRESIDENT DAOUD'S BROTHER AND SPECIAL ADVISOR, AND WAHID ABDULLAH, DEPUTY FONMIN, HAVE CONCLUDED FIVE-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT TO IRAN WHICH BEGAN MAY 7. DURING AUDIENCE WITH SHAH MAY 8, NAIM DELIVERED MESSAGE FROM DAOUD PLEDGING AFGHANISTAN'S FRIENDSHIP AND DESIRE FOR CLOSER RELATIONS WITH IRAN. NAIM AND ABDULLAH ALSO HAD TALKS WITH PRIMIN HOVEYDA, FONMIN KHALATBARI, PRES OF SENATE SHARIF EMEMI AND MANAGING DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL IRANIAN OIL CO., EQBAL, AND SPENT TWO DAYS TOURING ISFAHAN AND SHIRAZ.

2. ON MAY 11 ABDULLAH HELD PRESS CONFERENCE AT WHICH HE EXPRESSED GREAT SATISFACTION WITH RESULTS OF VISIT WHICH HE SAID HAD BROUGHT TWO COUNTRIES CLOSER TOGETHER THAN AT ANY TIME SINCE DAOUD RETURNED TO POWER LAST JULY. HE DOWNPLAYED DISAGREEMENT OVER HELMAND WATERS, SAYING MATTER WAS SO UNIMPORTANT IN CONTEXT OF OVERALL RELATIONS THAT IT HAD NOT EVEN BEEN DIS-

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CUSSED DURING CURRENT VISIT. WITHOUT GOING INTO SPECIFICS,

ABDULLAH SAID LARGE-SCALE IRANIAN ASSISTANCE HAD BEEN OFFERED TO AFGHANISTAN AND WOULD BE WORKED OUT LATER BY TECHNICAL EXPERTS. LONG-DISCUSSED PLANS TO PROVIDE AFGHAN ACCESS TO FREE PORT AT BANDAR ABBAS AND LATER CHAHBAHAR VIA NEW TRANSIT HIGHWAY WERE QTE CLOSER TO REALIZATION THANKS TO VISIT UNQTE ABDULLAH SAID.

3. COMMENT: NAIM'S VISIT, LIKE THAT OF MRS. GANDHI WEEK BEFORE, WAS SEEN BY GOI PRIMARILY AS OPPORTUNITY TO OVERCOME LINGERING SUSPICIONS OF IRANIAN INTENTIONS AND GET RELATIONS BACK ON TRACK. GOI OFFICIALS INCREASINGLY VIEW DAOUD AS NON-COMMUNIST NATIONALIST AND BEST LEADER WHO CAN BE HOPED FOR UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES. FOR THAT REASON GOI WAS PREPARED TO OFFER SUBSTANTIAL ASSISTANCE TO AFGHANS' 4TH DEVELOPMENT PLAN IN ORDER TO BOLSTER DAOUD'S GOVERNMENT, RELAX PRESSURE ON GOA TO RATIFY HELMAND TREATY BECAUSE AFGHAN PUBLIC OPINION IS NOT YET READY TO ACCEPT IT, AND RENEW OFFER OF FREE ACCESS TO IRANIAN PORTS VIA EXPANDED HIGHWAY AND RAILROAD NETWORK. MFA OFFICIALS BELIEVE THAT IN THESE POLITICAL TERMS, AT LEAST, NAIM'S VISIT WAS SUCCESSFUL.
HELMS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TEHRAN03800
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740116-0911
From: TEHRAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740551/aaaabtnc.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: TEHRAN 3736
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13-Aug-2002 by worrelsw>; APPROVED <13 FEB 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT TO IRAN OF NAIM AND ABDULLAH
TAGS: PFOR, AF, IR, (NAIM, SARDAR MOHAMMAD), (ABDULLAH, WAHID)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005